

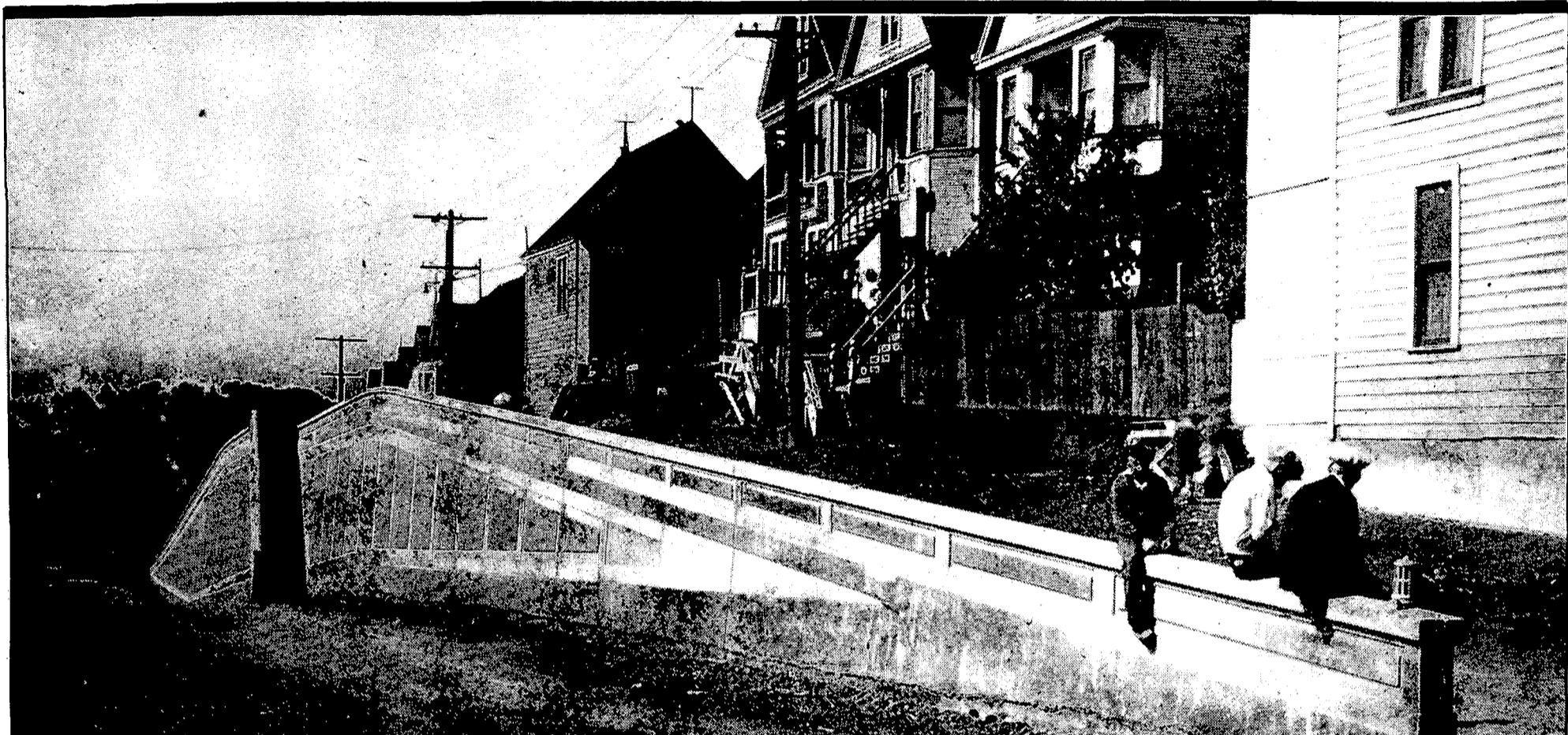
BERNAL JOURNAL

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING BERNAL HEIGHTS AND SAN FRANCISCO

September

Vol. 16 No. 4

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The retaining wall along Holladay Avenue between Peralta and York was completed in August, 1928. This and other concrete walls and steps were part of a \$1.5 million Mission District Capital Improvements Program. Several Bernal Heights projects were funded from 1926 to 1931.

This is one of the many pictures which have been collected as part of the Bernal Heights East Slope Study which is to be released to the community on September 19th at the Precita Center.—Photo courtesy of Greg Garr.

Huzzahs & Hosannahs: East Slope Study Coming

by R.J. Dutra

The long awaited East Slope Study, representing 18 months of efforts, will be released to the Bernal Heights community on Wednesday, Sept. 19th, 7:30 PM at the Precita Center Gym, 534 Precita Avenue.

It is expected to serve as a model and guide for all of Bernal Heights' neighborhoods, for the City departments, and for private developers.

Residents and the public are invited to attend the hillwide release of the Study. Maps and photos will be displayed, along with brief explanations and discussions of the Study's highlights.

Housing, development, circulation, open space, social services, historical and contemporary background are included in the 145 page document. Goals, specific recommendations, and methods of implementation are also included in this comprehensive plan.

Hundreds of East Slope residents participated in the study. Over 200 were confidentially interviewed in their homes to determine local issues, attitudes and desires. Over 100 residents participated in the public meetings and specialized Task Forces which set the goals and guidelines.

The Study was commissioned by the Mullen-Holladay Neighborhood Group, authorized by the City Planning Commission, and conducted by the prestigious Community Design Center. A year went into gathering information and ideas; six months went into condensing and compiling the results.

Draft copies were pre-released to Mullen-Holladay members. The Open Space, Farmers' Market, and Housing and Development sections have been used to seek City approval for local projects. Task Forces continue meeting to implement the Study's recommendations and use its guidelines.

The Mullen-Holladay Group consists of little over 100 households. They, and the adjoining neighborhoods, can be justifiably proud of producing the most comprehensive study of Bernal Heights since the precedent setting 1968 Improvement Plan and the most locally oriented since the innovative Elsie Street Study.

After community release on the 19th, the East Slope Study will be presented to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to be included in San Francisco's Master Plan.

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Journal Joke

A Shaggy clone story: A man liked himself so much, he decided to have a clone made. The clone was perfect in every way but one . . . he had a foul and obscene mouth. The man was very embarrassed, so he decided to take his clone to a Giant's Game and teach him some manners.

But the clone insulted the hot dog vender, abused the peanut man, and swore at the people nearby. Finally, after the clone yelled obscenities at the umpire, the man was disgusted and picking up his clone, threw him over the balcony, killing him.

When the police came later and discovered the body, they said, "Ah! A Classic Case of an Obscene Clone Fall."



Could this be your sweepstakes check? Bernal is a swell place to live but would you want to work here? Only your letter carrier knows for sure. Story Page 3.

BERNAL JOURNAL

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING
BERNAL HEIGHTS AND SAN FRANCISCO

The Bernal Journal is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Fund. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, and events. Articles with by-lines express the views of the individual and not necessarily those of the Journal or its editors.

The next meeting of the Bernal Journal is Wednesday, October 3, at 8 pm at 62 Winfield Street. Anybody with an idea or interest is invited. Deadline for ads, classifieds, announcements, cartoons, pictures and articles is October 12.

EDITORS: Steve Chapple and Ann Kyle

COMMUNITY REPORTER: R.J. Dutra

TREASURER: Jerry Schwartz

ADVERTISING: Joy Ricciardi, Lil Kruse,

Joe Marino

CONTRIBUTORS: Joe Marino,

Florence Monzasch, Fred Strickland

The Journal is looking for one new editor and for a distribution coordinator. If you're interested drop us a line, address below.

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or call

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For information regarding advertising call Ad Manager Joy Ricciardi or Joe Marino at 826-2371 or 546-2682. Classifieds 50 cents per line, minimum three-lines.

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LETTERS

Dear Editors,

The forces of conformism and the concomitant hostility possessed by individuals who have succumbed to those forces, feel guilty at their lack of courage, and now resent others who have failed to conform, as they did, are among the mightiest known in social affairs. Such forces were responsible for the demise of Police Chief Charles Gain.

As the present Bernal Journal staff prepares a change over in the running of the paper I hope that care is taken in the selection of new staff to insure that that new staff will continue the paper's policy of respecting individuality and the expression of view which may dissent and fail to conform to those more popular mass'views.

—Robert Apton

A Letter to Fire Chief Andrew Casper

a report by Barbara Pitschel

June 21, 1979

Dear Sir:

As residents of Bernal Heights, we would like to express our disagreement with the practice of annually burning the hilltop parkland. This is our

Bouncing Balls! Frayed Flowers!

The woman lived on the block more than 20 years. It always was a quiet neighborhood—many retired people, older adults, a few working class families with children. Then, new families moved in. Several of them had sons old enough to be active little leaguers. And almost overnight, the street in front of the woman's house became an unofficial athletic field. Baseball, basketball, football, soccer, tennis—name it and they played it.

"At one time, there were 11 boys out there—some from one block over—bouncing baseballs off the houses, battering the garage door, getting into newly planted flower beds. I was getting very nervous and so were many of the neighbors because they didn't know how to stop it," the woman said. She liked children but ill health demanded she have quiet. One day, she discovered seven baseballs on the roof. Shortly after, Community Boards received a call:

"People from the Bernal Heights office came over and listened to my tale of woe. After they talked to the boys' parents, we set up a hearing for July 5," she explained.

To clearly illustrate the problem, she toted seven baseballs to the hearing and set them on the table facing the panel. One of the boys later admitted that all seven were his.

"I had the chance to say what I thought and found out that two of the boys were just tired of being yelled at," she observed. When everyone finished discussing the situation, they agreed to take action. The boys said they no longer would play on the woman's street. One youngster's mother offered to let them play in front of her house.

"Now it's nothing like it was, although sometimes they get to playing around here. One of the boys has been an absolute angel. The other day, he saw me pulling my cart up the hill and helped me to my house," the woman said.

Call: 552-1250 for more information.

Help Our Library

Many people in the community have expressed concern to each other, to the library staff, and to city officials about the library's deteriorating appearance due to vandalism this summer. Windows have been broken, lights destroyed, and much of the recent paint job has been ruined with graffiti which cannot be removed. Staff members are also upset about this situation; we cannot offer any easy solutions. Part of the problem is that,

(Continued on Page 5)

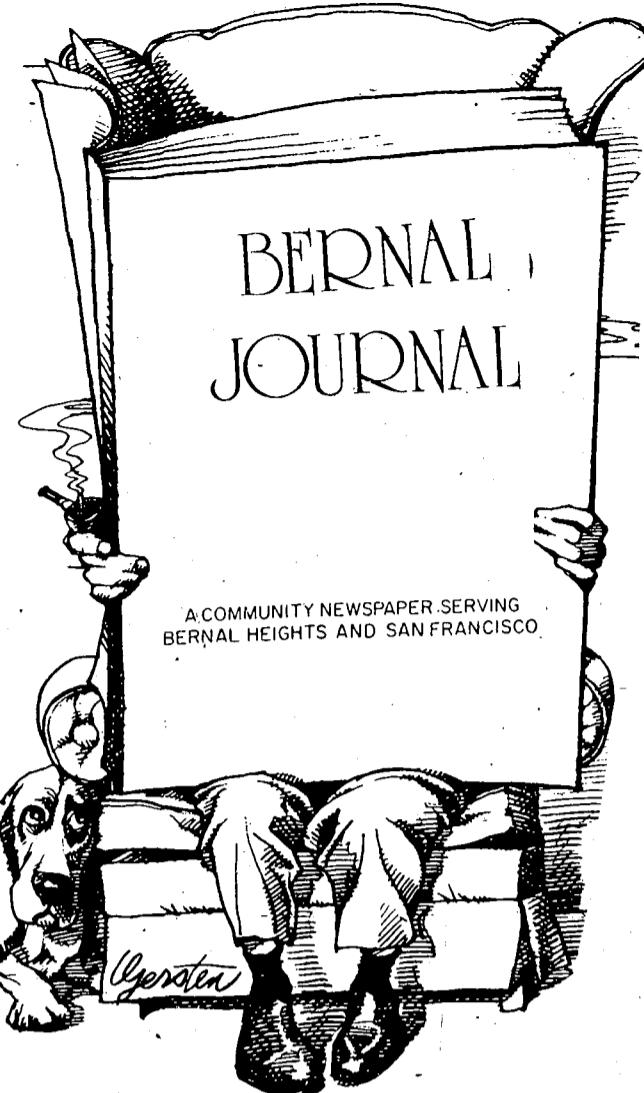
neighborhood park and open space. It is our area for picnics, kite flying, jogging, and nature study. The complete burning of the park makes the environment unpleasant for these leisure pursuits. Plant life-cycles are affected, sometimes adversely.

Our active concern for the hill is evidenced by the fact that we have conducted monthly hilltop cleanups for the last six years. We have also discussed the feasibility of restoring the park to a native grassland.

In years past you dealt with fires individually. This created natural firebreaks and left unscorched areas for public use. This would create no safety problems as there are no structures above Bernal Heights Boulevard which could be endangered by such a policy. We therefore ask you to revert to your previous policy which was to respond to individual fires rather than deliberately torching the entire hill.

Yours sincerely,
(signed by 15 Bernal residents)

cc: Dianne Feinstein, Mayor
Lee Dolson, Supervisor, 9th District
Senior Chief, Battalion 6, Station 11



Acrostic Oasis

BLASTING PHONEY POLITICIANS

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REVEALING RIP-OFF ARTISTS

NEVER FORGETTING OUR HILL'S

AN OASIS IN AN ARID DESERT

LIVING HERE'S GOTTA BE TOPS

JUST THINK OF THE PROGRESS

OUR PAPER'S HELPED MAKE HERE,

UNDAUNTED BY THE HARD WORK

ROUNDING UP ALL HANDS PRODDING DIANNE

NICELY BUT FIRMLY CONSTANTLY

ADVISING THE WHOLE BOARD OUR

LITTLE JOURNAL NEVER SLEEPS!

fred strickland

39 ellsworth st.

The Reply

July 12, 1979

Dear Mr. Pitschel:

Thank you for your concerns for the grassy areas of Bernal Heights above Bernal Heights Blvd.

The Division and Battalion Chiefs of your area recommend that in the future controlled burns will not be undertaken without first making contact with you.

A minimum amount of burning may still have to be undertaken on a selective basis in the future, but you will be conferred with beforehand.

Thank you again for your concern.

Sincerely,
Andrew C. Casper
Chief of Department



Welcome back Joy

Get Well Charlene

Letters are not censored. The Journal reserves the right to edit for space. Opinions and views expressed by letter-writers are solely their own and do not in any way necessarily express those of the Journal or its editors.



by Angela Gennino

Bernal Letter Carriers: Lori Pittman, Dan Rutherford, Alberto Buccat, Joe Alva, Philip Lepez, Steve Saris, Cheryl New, Adele Chavez, Thompson Lee.

Missing are some great favorites: David Bolt, Vicki Sawicki and Mike Nunez

FROM BILLS TO BABY CHICKS

by Joanne Molloy

(Ed. note) Although Labor Day 1979 means little more than a day off, our resident labor historian Mike Kasin tells us it has had a lively history. First celebrated in 1882 in New York City, it really got going in San Francisco at the turn of the century. Each year workers paraded from the Ferry Building to Market and Van Ness, touching base with a second group which paraded to the Bay.

In 1899, 10,000 people went "out to the country"—then Glen Park—for a day and night of dance contests and festivities. Every union in this closed-shop town proudly displayed the tools of their trade in booths at the picnic. It is in this Labor Day spirit that the Bernal Journal highlights some of the men and women who work on Bernal Heights.

"Not snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." O.K., but no one ever said anything about the hills. For the dozen

or so letter carriers who daily walk 8-10 miles up and down Bernal Heights, the hills might be the biggest obstacle. "It's steep on my route, around Holladay and Peralta," said Lori Pittman. "But I like it. It's quiet. It's like being in the country."

Cheryl New, who covers Cortland up to Bocana, worked five years as a substitute before she scored her own route on Bernal Heights. "It's hard work. But you get used to it. It's a neighborhood feel up there. Everybody knows everybody else."

Joe Alva has delivered everything from bills to baby chicks up here for 15 years. He admits that sometimes he's "tired at the end of the day." His route covers the streets emanating like bent spokes down the west slope. "Some of those streets don't even have sidewalks," Alva said. "And to reach some of the houses way up near Bernal Boulevard I go up winding paths, around trees, up stairs. Stairs are murder on a mailman."

For Alva, this rather rustic route has its pros and cons. "The inspectors time us, to check how long it takes to complete our route. With the stairs and all it takes longer. But I like it up there—I live there!"

Before they ever set foot on the Hill, the letter carriers have already done three hours of sorting at the huge Mission Annex postal complex. The interior of the Annex is honeycombed with compartments, and each compartment with hundreds of slots. Each carrier delivers to almost 800 units of housing a day. One glance around the Annex explains why Dan Sheehan, Superintendent and Bernal Heights native, received a commendation for hiring and promoting women and ethnic minorities. It looks like the U.N. General Assembly. "Our station was the first to have women carriers," Steve Saris said. "We still have a greater percentage of women than any other annex."

In the Annex, the carriers have an informal communications network that beats any computer system. "I've noticed that if people have to move, they'll try to stay in Bernal Heights," Dan Rutherford said. "We often remember who moved where, and pass the mail to the carrier who covers that route."

Rutherford anticipates more moves to keep track of in the future. "I notice a lot of new construction going on. And on Aztec almost every house is up for sale. The neighborhood is changing." Rutherford, like many residents, would prefer that Bernal Heights not become a high income area. "Those neighborhoods get too many *Sunset* magazines."

Most of the carriers agreed that Bernal Heights is a nice place to work. But there's room for improvement. Philip Lepez wished that our correspondents used our zip code (94110) more. Alberto Buccat wished that more mailboxes were large enough and in accessible spots. Adele Chavez hopes someday to be able to wear her uniform skirt without getting razzed. But the vote was unanimous that the worst problem on the job is dogs. "I'd appreciate it if the dogs didn't run free," Pittman said. "Have you ever been attacked by a dog? It scares you even if they don't bite."

Thanks, Bernal letter carriers, for bringing us those sweepstakes winnings, birthday cards and fan mail each day. And as for your complaint about my sweet little pooch, Mr. Lee, you can just . . . pat yourself on the back. He'll stay in the house from now on. ♦

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BHA

THOUGHTS

from Pat Helton
President of the Bernal Heights Association

Bernal Heights has always been a Working Class neighborhood. Yet, now a family of four with one working member, cannot buy a house here. With two members working it is barely possible. And what is the plight of renters?

Noe Valley USED to be a family neighborhood, but as housing becomes more expensive, it takes a working adult (or two) per bedroom to be able to pay the rent or make the house payments.

Is Bernal Heights next? What do you think? What do you want? Some people say—to the people with the money go the houses. OK. But should adults who have children, to carry on our lifeline, be penalized? How do we relate to this contradiction?

BHCF (Bernal Heights Community Foundation) is sponsoring a plan to buy/build houses to sell for low/moderate rates, to be, by contract, kept low/moderate . . . sold at the same price plus a cost of living rise.

These are difficult times we live in . . . we need to work with each other to help each other's life be more pleasant.

Fortunately, the neighborhood now has an office, at 307 Cortland Avenue, staffed by two talented, dedicated, low-paid Vista workers, Kate Lambert and Kate Esposito.

Also, fortunately, we have a good chance of getting our much needed Community Center. Which means we can start helping each other and having a good time too.

Every person reading these words can help. How can we help each other? What areas need work? Think about it. Talk about it to your neighbors. Come to the BHA meetings, every at 7:30-9 PM at 307 Cortland Avenue. (Rides home guaranteed.)

Issues Night, Thursday, Sept. 20; Candidates Night, Thursday, Oct. 18, at 7:30 PM at St. Kevin's Church, Anderson at Cortland. Come! Bring your friends. We need your support to make a viable showing. You need the information to be a viable voter.

BHA general meetings are held every third Thursday of the month. These are large neighborhood meetings around specific issues and concerns . . . also for having a good time. (Rides home guaranteed.)

September begins our new effort to preserve Bernal Heights and to serve the needs of all our neighbors. For sure, it will be a year enhanced by your participation and help. See you soon.

The steering committee of the Bernal Heights Association will meet Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 PM at 307 Cortland Avenue. They will continue to meet every second Thursday of the month. The meeting will address concerns around the Community Center, Bernal Recycling Center, Bernal Journal, Cortland Street, transportation, mental health, and open space. If you wish to add something to the agenda, call 826-3959. All steering committee meetings are open to the public.



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COMMUNITY CORNERS NON-PROFIT FOOD STORE MAY CLOSE

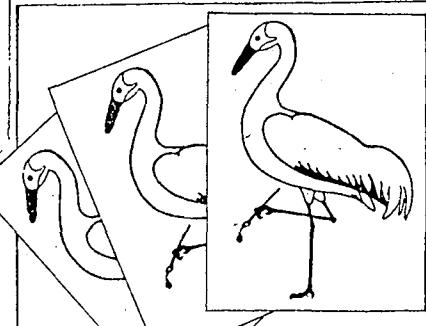
by Elyse Eisenberg

Remember when you could buy a two pound loaf of good whole wheat bread for 88 cents, tortillas for 30 cents a dozen, and the best natural jack cheese for \$2 per pound? Those days still exist on the corner of Coleridge and Powers Streets in Bernal Heights where Community Corners market has been providing the best in food at low prices for over four years. But, the same honesty that has kept the store open, may force it to close, since the store's owner-workers have refused to raise prices despite the crunch of inflation.

"We have to raise money somehow so that we can stock and sell more food at our low prices. If we can sell more, we can earn enough money to pay the taxes, rent and creditors, and stay open. We need volunteers to clean up, stock shelves, replace broken windows, and repair the refrigerators," says the coordinator of volunteer efforts.

Along with holding prices to a minimum, workers have held their wages to the minimum, neglecting improvements, and abandoning plans for expansion.

Loans from customers to be repaid in food are being considered, as are paid refundable memberships, a concert, and other fund-raising ideas. Posters in the store announce planned activities, and more ideas are invited, all with the goal of pulling the market out of the red.



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"OPEN SPACE DOLLAR CUTS"

by R. J. Dutra

Bernal Heights lost \$100,000 for open space improvements at a public hearing August 14th, before the Citizens Advisory Committee on Open Space. In all, two million dollars was cut from the City's badly neglected neighborhood parks system.

Mayor Dianne Feinstein and the Board of Supervisors ordered the cuts citing the Proposition 13 fiscal "emergency" as an excuse. Mullen-Holladay, Northwest Bernal, the Bernal Heights Association, and the Cortland Avenue Merchants, as well as neighborhood organizations throughout the City, have strongly protested the cuts. Mayor Feinstein and the Supervisors have refused to budge in spite of this intensive campaign to restore the funds.

Bernal's dollars were to be largely spent for landscaping and improvements to the Top-of-the-Hill, Coso Square, the Esmeralda Corridor, and the Franconia Slope. This is the only source of funds for local open space projects.

Requests for the 1980 Open Space Program are to be made by September 18th.

Bernal Heights has an extensive list of open space projects dating back to 1968, but there will be intensive competition for the ever dwindling funds.

For more information or to help out please call Bob Dutra (648-2785) or Harold Retter (821-7796).



We are pleased to announce the association of DAVID MILAZZO with Forum Realty. DAVID will continue to specialize in the Bernal Heights / Outer Mission area. If you own in this area, DAVID can give you an accurate estimate of the market value of your property in this area. Give DAVID a call for assistance.

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BERNAL BLOCK GRANT BATTLES

■ INTRO

The frantic and tiresome process of applying for Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG) has been carried on, once again, this summer by a number of Bernal Heights groups working together. The proposals include: (1) money for the acquisition and rehabilitation of two Cortland Street buildings for a community center, (2) continuation of funding for the Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF) programs to provide housing affordable to low and moderate income people, and (3) commercial revitalization program for Cortland Avenue.

Approximately one hundred Bernal residents participated in lobbying and writing the proposals. Work involved meetings with the Mayor, Supervisor Dolson, the Citizens Committee on Community Development, and the staff at the Office of Community Development. Bernal residents had a dramatic opportunity to demonstrate concern at two evening hearings to the Mayor and the Citizens Committee when over fifty residents turned out to fight for what we deserve.

The message given to the City is perhaps best summarized by an excerpt from Pat Helton's speech: "... Bernal residents have been doing the City's work for a long time now. The Planning Department did no planning, so we planned ourselves. BBI refused to ensure that its building permits were safe for construction, so we took the responsibility ourselves. These efforts, involving thousands of Bernal residents, have been accomplished without a penny of City money. We deserve a community center; we deserve a housing development corporation to produce and preserve housing affordable to Bernal residents. We deserve a commercial area on Cortland Ave. that is pleasant, and continues to serve the needs of neighborhood residents."

(Continued from Page 2)

when the damage occurs, community people do not react, either in person or by calling the police. Even some who pass while damage is being done have done nothing.

The public needs to be aware that the Bernal Branch of the library is not very heavily used compared to some of similar or smaller size and staff. It is difficult to staff, and expensive to maintain because of repair costs. If the Bernal Heights Community wishes to keep its present fine library service, it will need to realize the importance of using the present facilities and services and becoming involved in making sure that a few inconsiderate people do not vandalize the building further. Please, if you see anyone damaging any building in the area, call the police or the staff of the building. It is not only public buildings which are being damaged lately, but stores and houses; This affects the looks of the entire community.

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■ COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION

The Cortland Merchants Association submitted an application to the City for \$225,000. The final recommendation by the Mayor was for \$30,000. The original proposal was for facade improvements (the remaining \$215,400). The street improvement request included money for street lights, stop signs, crosswalk striping, crosswalks (cement), trees, murals, trash receptacles, and benches.

At the Aug. 9th hearing before the Citizens Committee, Jane Rowe, secretary of the Merchants Association, testified about the need for more than the \$30,000 recommended by the Mayor. At that time she also expressed a concern that any upgrading of Cortland Avenue "... improve and preserve Bernal and the Cortland commercial area ... I am committed to the concept that the commercial revitalization of Cortland not displace tenants, either commercial or residential. In particular, I believe that any increased costs from a facade improvement program should be absorbed through subsidization, and not lead to any displacement."

Although it is fairly clear what was cut from the proposal, the City has left the Association in the dark about just what the \$30,000 is supposed to be used for.

In an attempt to clear up some of the questions about the use of the \$30,000, the Merchants invited Roger Herarra from the Planning Department to their August meeting. Unfortunately, Mr. Herarra was not able to clarify the Block Grant process. If the Office of Community Development and other City agencies remain unresponsive to the Association's needs, Bernal Heights may find itself in a familiar position—one where working people are once again forced to assume the City's responsibilities in insuring that the community's needs are met.

■ HOUSING

The housing proposals of the BHCF include programs for new construction and for purchase and rehabilitation of housing affordable to low and moderate people. The BHCF also requested funds for a low-interest loan fund for low and moderate income homeowners to fix up or rehabilitate their own homes, as well as capital improvement funds to make safe streets and insure adequate fire and emergency vehicle access, build walkways, and install fire hydrants.

The BHCF is a non-profit, tax-exempt community development corporation. By absorbing the design and engineering costs, by not taking any developer's profit, by providing 10% down, 7-3/4% mortgages, and by possibly writing off some of the land cost, the BHCF hopes to make architecturally compatible, energy efficient homes available to low and moderate income Bernal residents. For the long run the BHCF is investigating housing cooperatives and other creative financial mechanisms for housing.

Unbelievably, these housing programs of the BHCF were not initially recommended for funding. With some hard pushing from Bernal Heights residents, however, we should be getting some of the funding we requested.

For more information about the BHCF community center and housing proposals contact the Bernal Heights Community Foundation office at 307 Cortland Avenue, Phone: 826-3959, Monday through Friday, 9:00-5:00.

For more information about the Cortland Avenue Merchants proposal contact Jane Rowe at Noe-Bernal Glass, 401 Cortland Avenue, Phone: 285-3181.

Community Center Funded

by Ann Kyle

Down Cortland Avenue ... stop at the Library ... turn and look across the street. Well, wait just a few more months ... then look.

"... I am delighted to inform you that I have recommended \$250,000 for a Community Center for Bernal Heights" ... a letter from Mayor Dianne Feinstein.

This recommendation has still to go before the Board of Supervisors in September and then on to HUD in Washington, D.C. for final approval. The 1980 fiscal year doesn't begin until March 1, 1980 ... so we still must wait, and work, a little longer.

But, congratulations neighbors! We're looking good!

This will be a multi-purpose center, with the strongest emphasis being on providing much-needed social services (employment counseling, seniors lunch program, childcare, etc.).

The Community Center Organizing Committee meets once a month at 307 Cortland Avenue at 7:30 PM. Three committees are presently planning and organizing the Center. They are: Buildings: finalizing the purchase of the two buildings now being considered and supervising the design.

Services: researching those service organizations in Bernal and citywide, which might operate from our Center; exploring city guidelines for service providers and aiding local people in meeting those guidelines.

Finance: researching funding sources—private and public—to support the Center staff and to aid local service providers; developing a working budget for the Center and maintaining "the books" for initial fundraising efforts.

If you're interested in any of these committees, would like to lend your talents or insure that the Center is responsive to our diverse hill, please call Kate Lambert or Pat Helton at 826-3959, or stop in at 307 Cortland Avenue.

The Community Center Organizing Committee needed to purchase an option on one of the buildings on Cortland Avenue for \$650.00. It was also necessary for us to have a Termite Report done. Gnaw! Gnaw! Since the city cannot pay for any expenses before it purchases the buildings we have had to raise the money by phoning residents of Bernal Heights who have expressed support for the Center in the past. Following is a Statement (excluding names of donors) of this effort:

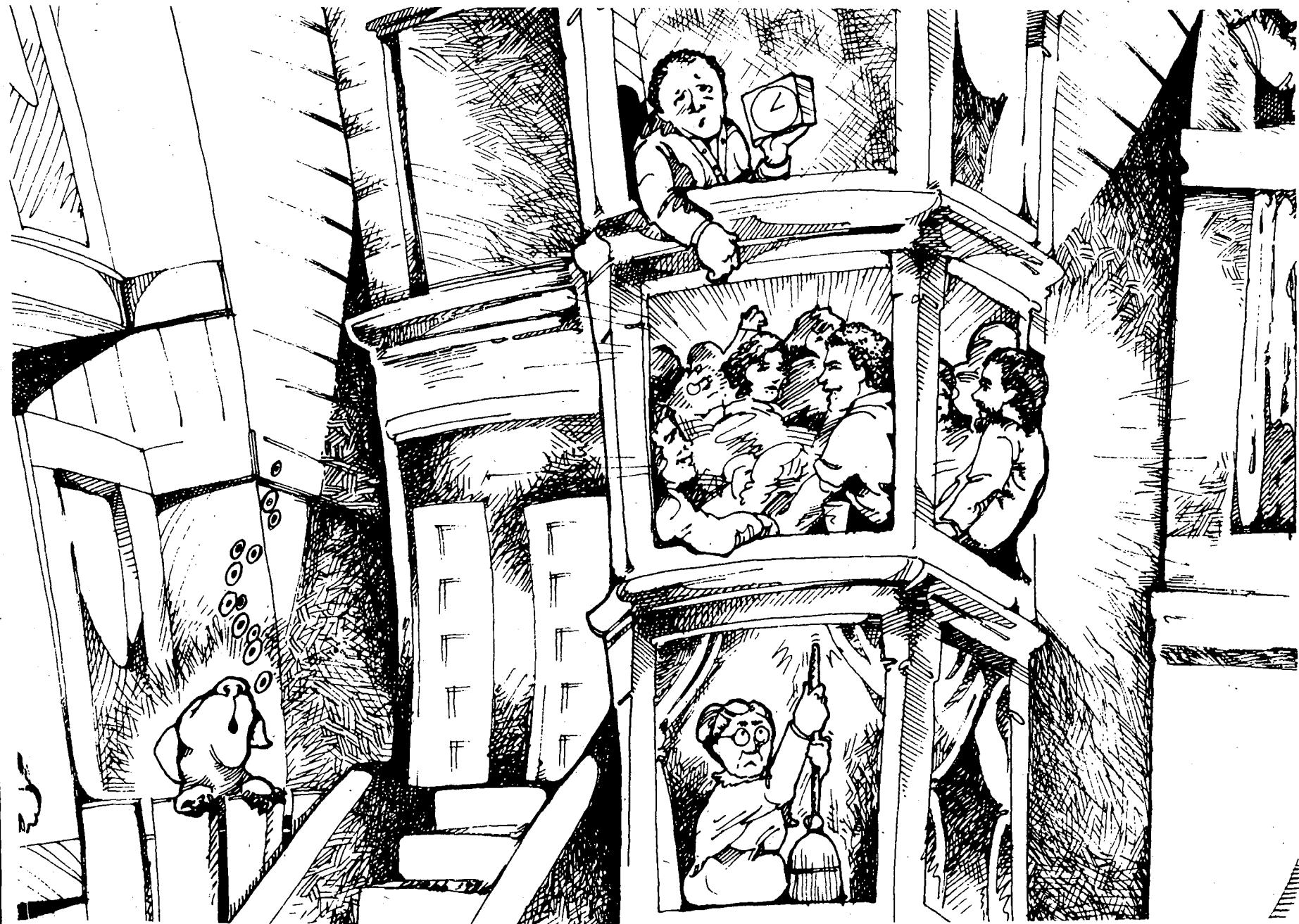
FINANCE STATEMENT

Approximately 50 people were called.
\$575.00—Pledged
\$375.00—Received
\$650.00—Still Needed

The committee thanks everyone who gave so generously. If you would like to help us in this effort we would be very grateful. The Merchant's Association has offered to help with a fundraiser. Any other ideas? Call the BHCF at 826-3959 if you'd like to lend a hand.

*Latest news bulletin ... we need another \$500.00 as a deposit for the second building ... thus the large Still Needed figure. Once again, thanks again to everyone.

Something driving you up the wall?



If you have trouble with your neighbors or another person and don't know what to do, call Community Boards. Neighborhood people, who sit on Community Board panels, can help you settle all kinds of local gripes: Noise. Vandalism. Truancy. Tenant/Landlord Problems. Theft. Consumer Complaints. And many more. Community Board panels hear cases in Bernal Heights, the Excelsior, Portola and Visitacion Valley. When you have a conflict, call us. Office hours are weekdays from 9 to 5.

Community Board Program: Neighbors helping neighbors resolve disputes.

Bernal Heights/Excelsior
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Survey

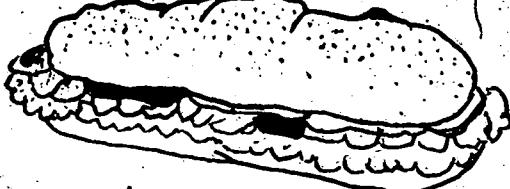
by Robert Apton •

The combination of charming homes and natural beauty combine to form a lovely and harmonious appearance in Bernal Heights. For this reason I'm offended when I see others disregard and violate that beauty. Additionally the possibility now exists for qualified persons to obtain very low cost home repair loans. I've prepared this survey to determine who else shares my concerns and would like to do something about them. Return your response to the Bernal Heights Branch Library and print the word "Survey" on the top of a sealed envelope. Expect your responses to be treated confidentially and include your name, address and phone number.

1. Do you feel there is a problem of litter and garbage on the streets, sidewalks, and open space land, such as Cal-Tran property, which are improperly maintained? yes..... no.....
2. Do you feel that there is a problem of neglected and abused houses which you would like to see remedied? yes..... no.....
3. Do you feel that some of your neighbors are responsible for the presence of any of the following: (Circle your choice/s)
 - A. litter and garbage on the streets, sidewalks, or your property?
 - B. inappropriate and unsightly vehicle repair in the streets?
 - C. abandoned vehicles?
 - D. neglected and/or abused homes?
 - E. other (specify)
4. Would you like a method of making a complaint to one of the following which would assure your anonymity? (Circle your choice/s)
 - A. your neighbor?
 - B. the responsible City departments such as Department of Health?
 - C. both in their turn?
5. Would you like information on low cost home repair loans? yes..... no.....

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VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

The Democratic Party is once again putting on a spectacular Voter Registration Drive! The Democrats are paying 20 cents a registration, and the hours are flexible. Call 981-7154 or come by the office at 756 Market Street, Room 529. They will be registering folks up to October 8, 1979 for the November election.

Communiiversity

You may have noticed a new addition to the stacks of free newspapers at your local coffeehouse or laundromat. This is the Communiiversity free catalog of classes.

It is put out by a group of people who believe that neighborhoods are beautiful and that everybody has some skill or knowledge to share. Anybody at all can list a class (if it's not illegal or a front for a money making group). All classes are free. Folks have shared everything from music theory to accounting to traveling to the Mardi Gras.

Communiiversity is always looking for new teachers. If you have a skill or knowledge to share, call Sheila at 648-4451 or write P.O. Box 42093, San Francisco, California 94101.

"Sundays at Precita Park"

Come together and enjoy a pleasant afternoon of music, dance performances, clowns, puppets, juggler, magician, and local talent.

The first of a series will begin:

Sunday, September 9 from 2 to 5 PM
Sunday, September 23 from 2 to 5 PM

Bring your family and friends, and a picnic lunch. These events are sponsored by the "Sunday at Precita Park Committee," an AD-Hoc committee of the Precita Center. More neighborhood participation is highly encouraged. For more detailed schedule of performances, please watch for public posting.



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PROPERTY TAX NEWS FOR SENIORS

An important reminder for senior citizens is the property tax postponement filing period, running from May 16 through December 31, 1979.

"Qualified senior citizens can delay payment of part or all of the property taxes on their home. If they elect to do so, the state will place a lien on the property for the amount postponed and seven percent simple interest will be charged," says Assemblyman Art Agnos.

The lien and interest do not become due until the senior citizen homeowner moves or sells the house, or dies and does not have a spouse residing there. All or part of the lien can be repaid at any time.

Persons needing directions or further information are invited to call the office of Assemblyman Agnos at 557-2253.

SENIOR LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Starting on September 10, 1979, a SENIOR FOOD PROGRAM will begin for those Bernal Heights residents who are 60 or who are physically handicapped.

Luncheons will be served on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at ST. KEVIN'S ELLSWORTH HALL. A donation of 50 cents per meal is required.

Mission Community College will provide classes on Wednesdays. Registration for this is on September 5. Come by for coffee at 10:00 to discuss the types of programs. On Mondays the Health Department will be presenting special services and programs! and on Fridays we will have bingo games.

If you are interested drop by and pick up your luncheon reservation ticket for the first week: September 10-12-14. We have a limited supply. These four places will be giving out tickets only:

ST. KEVIN'S LIBRARY	704 Cortland
E.O.C.	500 Cortland
DRUG STORE	434 Cortland
	439 Cortland

Volunteers are also needed. Call 282-7288 if you need any further information.

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ANDREA SNOW... CIRCUS CLOWN



Ms. Wombat, a testament to independent, self sufficient womanhood, stares agog at Mr. Sniffs sniffer.

(Editor's Note... Andrea Snow, a well-known and well-loved actor with the San Francisco Mime Troup recently joined the Pickle Family Circus as Ms. Cornelia Wombat. Ms. Snow and Ms. Wombat are long-time Bernal Heights residents.)

B.J. Tell us Ms. Wombat, what is it about Bernal Heights, it's political climate, it's diversity... that you like?

Ms. Wombat The Weather is wonderful and the hills special... I first discovered Bernal Heights... let me see... '68... I was

with my lover... yes, '68 pre Katmandu... I'd hunted and hunted, I was delighted to find it... but I could never afford to live here if I had to buy a place... I finally found a free-standing home in Nepal.

B.J. What is it like being in a circus?

Ms. Snow I always thought the circus was wonderful... the clowns... wonderful. Clown work in the arena is very different... very broad... physical. My work has been mimetic... gestures... using the whole body to convey an idea... but already that's like T.V. compared to the Circus... coming up with ten-minute gags... different than a whole play... the clown act... more like a painting... image after image... as a performer it is gratifying... I don't know if it's my life right now, or what, but I have this feeling.

B.J. Angst?

Ms. Snow Yes, angst. (bursting into song)

Ms. Wombat Angst... for the memory.

B.J. Ms. Wombat, you wanted to say something?

Ms. Wombat Now if anyone would like to send me a house for 30,000... I am getting on... time to make babies... buy goats, keep kittens... grow roses... and don't worry, I would only rent to nice people when I go abroad.

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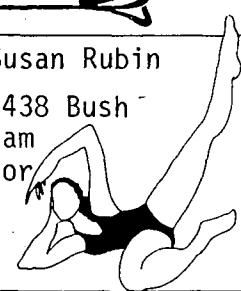
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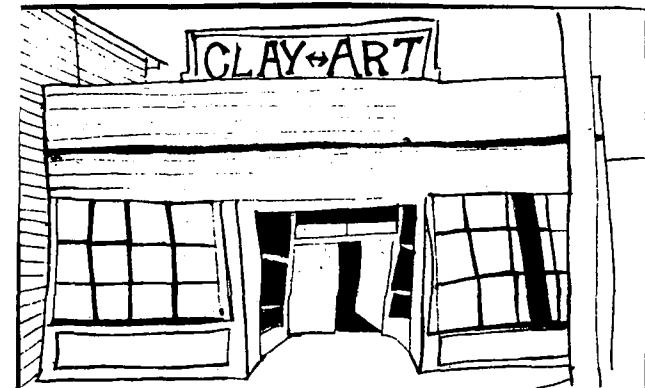
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FOREIGN LANGUAGES: Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch, Arabic. Conversation emphasis; 4-wk. courses. BAY AREA LANGUAGE CENTER, 2940-16th Street. Suite 201 552-9899, 1-5 p.m.

Clay Art



By Jeanne Angier

Last summer, Jennifer Wiggins and Michael Zanfagna gave a children's clay class at CLAY ART, their ceramic's studio on Cortland Avenue at Bennington. My daughter really enjoyed the sessions she attended and I was interested to discover if they were going to be held again this summer.

When you walk past the low, red building with the awning-stripped curtains, you can't help but wonder what's inside. You are greeted at the door by Jennifer and Michael, and shown into their sunny studio.

Bright red apples with a bite taken out, helium balloons in pastel glazes, clay planters in the shape of a woman's plump legs and torso, strongman candle holders, all hang from the walls and lay drying on worktables. Humorous, attractive objects that are fired, glazed, and fired again in the kilns at one side of the room.

When Jennifer and Michael began CLAY ART 2½ years ago, they were looking for a place to create ceramic's, and a place in the community. They ran the children's clay class on their own funds. "But," says Michael, "Just when we had gained the necessary experience and had the recommendations we needed for the grants to keep our studio going, Proposition 13 came along and we had to end the clay classes for kids."

They had discovered, however, that the market for ceramics was growing fast, "a renaissance." So Bernal Heights now boasts a thriving ceramics studio. CLAY ART has two open house ceramic sales a year... and though there's no more clay classes... Visitors are welcome in the studio at any time.

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